

## Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 /086 W  
-----115524 201334Z /46

O 201223Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8362

INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

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STATE FOR PA AND PA/PRESS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR  
DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL;  
ICA FOR PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP: VANCE (CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: OWEN/VANCE PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING JULY 20  
BREAKFAST

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF INFORMAL MEETING WITH PRESS BY  
SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AFTER  
THEIR JULY 20 BREAKFAST MEETING IN LONDON:

OWEN: SHOULD I JUST START OFF BY SAYING THAT WHAT WE'VE  
BEEN DOING, WE'RE HAVING BREAKFAST WHICH HAS BEEN LARGELY  
DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING RHODESIA AND WE HAD WITH US  
AMBASSADOR LOW AND MR. JOHN GRAHAM OF THE FOREIGN  
OFFICE WHO, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE BEEN OUT THERE NOW FOR  
SOME WEEKS, AND I THINK THAT THE ATTEMPT OF QUIET  
DIPLOMACY, OF PEOPLE MOVING AROUND AFRICA, SEEING  
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PEOPLE, SHUTTling TO AND FRO HAS HAD RESULTS. I DON'T  
THINK IT'S GOING TO CONCEDE DRAMATIC PROGRESS BUT WE  
THINK THAT THAT FORM OF QUIET DIPLOMACY SHOULD START  
AGAIN AND THEY WILL BE STARTING AGAIN EARLY NEXT MONTH,  
END OF THIS MONTH, THEY'LL BE GOING BACK, AND I THINK  
WE WILL START TO SEE PROGRESS BEING MADE. I THINK THERE  
IS A GROWING RECOGNITION EVERYWHERE THAT THERE HAS TO BE

ROUNDTABLE TALKS AND THAT THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IN CONSTANTLY ARGUING FOR BRINGING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER AROUND THE TABLE IS THE ONLY WAY OF BRINGING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER AND WE ARE RESOLVED TO CONTINUE THAT SEARCH AND I BELIEVE IT CAN BE DONE, BUT IT IS NOT GOING TO BE DONE UNLESS WE PREPARE THE GROUND VERY CAREFULLY AND I THINK EVERYONE IS AGREED THEY DON'T WANT ANOTHER GENEVA TYPE CONFERENCE. SO FOR YOU IN THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE WATCHING THERE WON'T BE PERHAPS AS DRAMATIC A SIGN AS YOU MAY WISH BUT I THINK THERE IS STEADY PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WHETHER WE ARE OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC IS VERY HARD TO SAY, BUT I DO THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN SLOW BUT STEADY PROGRESS.

QUESTION: DID YOU DISCUSS THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AT ALL?

OWEN: AS FAR AS THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE CONCERNED WE ARE AGREED. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS QUITE CLEAR AND I THINK THERE IS A GROWING RECOGNITION HERE IN BRITAIN NOW EVEN AMONGST SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE NOT ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, THAT THIS WOULD BE A VERY BAD TIME TO LIFT SANCTIONS.  
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THAT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION'S VIEW, AND THAT AT THIS MOMENT WHEN WE'RE TRYING TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER TO TAKE ANY STEP WHICH WOULD BE SEEN TO UNDERMINE THAT POSITION OF BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER WOULD BE VERY UNWISE. TO LIFT SANCTIONS WOULD BE TO ALIENATE INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN A MAJOR WAY, I THINK MYSELF, WOULD PUT BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIRING LINE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE WOULD BE SEEN TO HAVE LOST OUR OBJECTIVITY, WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN TO HAVE ABANDONED OUR OWN ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND OUR PRINCIPLES AND WOULD IN MY VIEW BE MOST DAMAGING TO GETTING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE

VANCE: I WANT TO ENDORSE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WHAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS JUST SAID. WE ARE AT A VERY DELICATE POINT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON. I CAN THINK OF REALLY NOTHING THAT WOULD BE MORE UNWISE AND MORE DANGEROUS THAN TO TAKE SUCH A STEP AT THIS TIME.

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QUESTION: WOULD YOU HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH IT MR.  
VANCE, IF YOUR SENATE VOTES TO LIFT SANCTIONS?

VANCE: I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR SENATE WILL VOTE TO  
LIFT SANCTIONS.

QUESTION: NO.,BUT IF THEY DO, WOULD YOU HAVE TO GO  
ALONG....

VANCE: ....WOULD HAVE TO GO TO ANOTHER HOUSE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT ABOUT MAKING CERTAIN  
(PARTLY INAUDIBLE).

VANCE: THAT WOULD NOT BE DETERMINED, IT HAS TO GO  
THROUGH BOTH HOUSES.

QUESTION: AND IS IT LIKELY TO GO THROUGH THE LOWER  
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HOUSE?

VANCE: I DOUBT IT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT ABOUT MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE SANCTIONS ARE FOLLOWED, PARTICULARLY WHERE OIL IS CONCERNED?

OWEN: WELL, WE HAVE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF SANCTIONS AND THERE HAS BEEN AN AVOIDANCE OF SANCTIONS AND BREAKING SANCTIONS. I THINK IT IS MUCH LESS NOW THAN IT WAS IN THE EARLY YEARS. I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD MAKE ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND I THINK THAT THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE ACCEPTED, NEITHER TO LIFT SANCTIONS NOR TO CHANGE THE OPERATION OF SANCTIONS. WHAT WE SHOULD NOW DO IS TO CONCENTRATE ON BRINGING ALL THE SIDES TOGETHER AND PERSUADING EVERYBODY OF THE NECESSITY TO COMPROMISE AND TO PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE IN ZIMBABWE FIRST.

QUESTION: ACCORDING TO BISHOP MUZOREWA THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WOULD BE TO LIFT SANCTIONS.

OWEN: HE NOW SAYS THAT, WHEREAS HE DIDN'T SAY THAT A FEW MONTHS AGO, THAT'S TRUE, AND I THINK THAT OF COURSE HE IS ONE PARTY, HE THINKS THAT, AND IF YOU PUT THAT TO THE OTHER PARTIES THEY WOULD SAY NO. SO THAT THE QUESTION IS, IS THAT IF WE WERE TO CHOOSE TO DO WHAT EITHER PARTY WANTED WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE LOST ANY OBJECTIVITY AT ALL. THE OTHER QUESTION IS THIS ISN'T JUST A DECISION FOR US YOU KNOW, EITHER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OR THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO LIFT SANCTIONS. SANCTIONS ARE A MANDATORY RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND BECAUSE OF THE VIEW IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED NATIONS THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN RHODESIA IS THE THREAT TO THE PEACE AND FEW PEOPLE CAN DENY THAT. THERE ARE 7,200 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING IN RHODESIA EVER SINCE 1972, OVER 1000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WAS SETTLED, SIGNED. NOW SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE A REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE, A CESSATION OF VIOLENCE. MR. SMITH HAS HIMSELF SAID HOW DISAPPOINTING PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REDUCING THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE. THERE ARE OVER 500 SCHOOLS IN RHODESIA THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN, THREE ARE WHOLE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE WRIT OF THE COVENANT

DOESN'T RUN, SECURITY FORCES CAN GO WHERE THEY WANT TO  
BUT THEY OUGHT NOT TO FIGHT THEIR WAY IN, AND WHEN THEY  
GO THEN OTHER PEOPLE COME BACK AND THIS IS A  
COUNTRY WHICH IS A LONG WAY FROM HAVING THE  
NECESSARY STABILITY TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED  
SETTLEMENT. I THINK WE MUST REMEMBER THIS. OUR FIRST  
PRIORITY MUST STILL BE TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT A  
CEASEFIRE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND  
THE REST OF YOUR DAY?

VANCE: I AM GOING TO GO BACK AND CONSULT WITH SOME OF  
MY COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND MY UPCOMING  
TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THEN I SHALL BE GOING BACK  
AFTER LUNCH TO THE UNITED STATES.

QUESTION: WHERE IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON GOING  
FIRST?

VANCE: WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT THIS MORNING,

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WE'LL DECIDE THEN.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE QUESTION RE MIDDLE EAST.

VANCE: NO, NOT ONLY NO DECISION, NO THOUGHT OF IT.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE (QUESTION REGARDING LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING).

VANCE: WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY INSOFAR AS THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF A FURTHER MEETING THAT'S UP TO THE PARTIES AND I SAID I WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO WHEREVER THEY WANT TO MEET AND WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH THEM AND SEE WHERE THEY WANT TO BE.

QUESTION: ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK, DR. OWEN?

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OWEN: I THINK WE PROBABLY BOTH OF US WILL BE MEETING AGAIN NEXT WEEK. IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY DEFINITE WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS GOING TO TAKE NAMIBIA, BUT THERE IS AN EXAMPLE, IF YOU LIKE, WHERE MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT YOU COULD NOT BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHERE WE'RE VERY CLOSE TO GETTING A SETTLEMENT. WE'VE STILL GOT SOME PROBLEMS BUT WE'RE VERY CLOSE, AND IT IS VERY LIKELY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE THIS NEXT WEEK, AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT MR. VANCE AND I WILL BE THERE AND THIS WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND RHODESIA. I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT WE'VE BEEN VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN THE HOST COUNTRY FOR THIS MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND WE WISH SECRETARY VANCE AND THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO I'LL BE SEEING THIS AFTERNOON' AND THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO I SAW YESTERDAY, ALL GOOD FORTUNE AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE DIALOGUE WILL CONTINUE AND MY FEELING IS THAT AS LONG AS THE DIALOGUE IS GOING THEN THERE IS HOPE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AS WELL.

VANCE: COULD I JUST SAY ONE WORD ON THAT. I WANT TO REPEAT AGAIN THE APPRECIATION WHICH MY GOVERNMENT AND I EXTEND TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE MEETINGS WHICH WE HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS AT LEEDS CASTLE. THE MEETINGS WERE USEFUL MEETINGS AND THIS FACT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT I THINK IN LARGE MEASURE BY THE LOCATION WHICH WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO US BY THE / BRITISH GOVERNMENT, SO I WISH TO EXTEND MY THANKS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHERS

FOR DOING THIS.

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THANK YOU.

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## Message Attributes

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